

Message Text

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O 121616Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6089
INFO JCS WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN GER
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
USDOCSOUTH NAPLES IT
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USNMR SHAPE
CSA WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
HQ USAF WASHDC
16THAF TORREJON SP
COMNAVACT ROTA SP

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 MADRID 10499

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, SP, US
SUBJECT: OCTOBER 4 MEETING OF US-SPANISH COUNCIL - OVER-
VIEW

REF:(A) MADRID 10354 (DTG 081732Z SEP 78) (NOTAL), (B)
MADRID 10390 (DTG 111107Z SEP 78) (NOTAL)

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1. PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF THE MEETING. THIS WILL BE THE
THIRD MEETING OF THE US-SPANISH COUNCIL IN WHICH THE
SECRETARY HAS PARTICIAPTED TOGETHER WITH SPANISH FOREIGN
MINISTER OREJA. IN MAY 1977, THE SECRETARY CAME TO MADRID
AND IN SEPTEMBER 1977 THEY MET IN NEW YORK DURING THE UNGA.
IN FORM AND TONE THIS MEETING, ON OCTOBER 4, IS EXPECTED
TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR. DISCUSSION IN DEPTH OR

RESOLUTION OF SPECIFIC ISSUES IS NOT TO BE EXPECTED IN THE ONE HOUR SET ASIDE.

2. THIS SESSION, WHICH COMES SIX MONTHS LATER THAN OREJA HAD ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED, SATISFIES THE TREATY REQUIREMENT FOR SEMI-ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1976 TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SIX SUBORDINATE JOINT COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL, ALL OF WHICH ARE ACTIVE AT THE COUNCIL'S SEAT IN MADRID. THIS WILL BE THE FIRST MEETING ATTENDED BY GENERAL JONES AND THE NEW SPANISH CJCS, AIR FORCE GENERAL IGNACIO ALFARO ARREGUT (BIO IN SEPTEL), BOTH OF WHOM ARE PERMANENT MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COUNCIL, AS WELL AS BY COUNCIL PERMREP AMBASSADOR TODMAN.

3. IF THIS SESSION FOLLOWS THE PATTERN OF THE PAST TWO, THE BRIEF BILATERAL SCHEDULED FOR 11:15 A.M. WILL EXTEND INTO THE TIME (11:30-12:30) ALLOTTED FOR THE COUNCIL ITSELF AND WILL DEAL WITH AT LEAST A PORTION OF THE FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS WHICH OREJA WOULD LIKE TO TOUCH ON OR TO HAVE THE SECRETARY ADDRESS (SITUATION IN THE MAGHREB - IN PARTICULAR THE SAHARA - THE MIDDLE EAST, CUBA, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NATO). OREJA TYPICALLY BRINGS TWO OR THREE AIDES WITH HIM TO THIS DISCUSSION. THE POST-COUNCIL LUNCHEONS HAVE IN THE PAST BEEN RELAXED AND INFORMAL.

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4. THE COUNCIL MEETING ITSELF (AGENDA IS CONTAINED IN THE REFTELS) WILL CONSIST OF BRIEF INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE TWO MINISTERS AND BY THE TWO CHAIRMEN OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF; THE READINGS BY THE SPANISH AND US PERMANENT SECRETARIES OF A SHORT REPORT WHICH HIGHLIGHTS MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE COUNCIL; A TYPICALLY HURRIED REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE REPORTS OF EACH OF THE SIX JOINT COMMITTEES, WHICH COVER MILITARY AND STATUS OF FORCES MATTERS, THE DIALOGUE WITH SPAIN ON NATO, AND BILATERAL RELATIONS IN THE FIELDS OF ECONOMICS, EDUCATION AND CULTURE, AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; AND APPROVAL OF A JOINT PRESS STATEMENT TAILORED PRINCIPALLY FOR SPANISH DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION. PROVISION HAS ALSO AGAIN BEEN MADE ON THE AGENDA FOR LIMITED DISCUSSION FOR FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS TO THE EXTENT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN COVERED IN THE PRIOR BILATERAL EXCHANGE.

5. THIS YEAR, IF PREPARATIONS CAN BE COMPLETED IN TIME, THE MINISTERS WILL BE ASKED TO SIGN TWO PROCEDURAL ANNEXES (11 AND 12) TO THE AGREEMENT IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY. THESE WERE LEFT UNDONE WHEN THE TREATY WAS SIGNED

IN JANUARY 1976. THEY PROVIDE FOR TURNING OVER TO SPAIN
THREE OFF-BASE PETROLEUM STORAGE AREAS ASSOCIATED WITH THE
US-BUILT ROAT-ZARAGOZA PIPELINE, WHICH WAS ITSELF TURNED
OVER TO THE OFFICIAL SPANISH PETROLEUM MONOPOLY (CAMPSA)
UNDER THE TERMS OF THE 1970 AGREEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND
COOPERATION. ADDITIONALLY, THESE NEW PROCEDURAL ANNEXES
PROVIDE THAT THE USAF WILL REIMBURSE CAMPSA FOR OPERATION
AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PIPELINE AT A BASIC RATE OF \$600,
000 PER YEAR RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 1978. US MILITARY
USE OF THE PIPELINE REMAINS GUARANTEED.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6090

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CNO WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 04 MADRID 10499

6 OREJA'S VIEWS ON THE MEETING. FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA
VALUES THE OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS PROVIDE FOR PER-
SONAL CONTACT WITH THE SECRETARY, FOR WHOM HE FEELS
GENUINE FRIENDSHIP. THE WARMTH OF THIS PERSONAL RELATION-

SHIP HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH SPAIN DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS; ADDITIONALLY, IT SERVES OREJA POLITICALLY AT HOME, WHERE HIS ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS COME UNDER PERIODIC CRITICISM (PRIMARILY AS CONFIDENTIAL

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THE RESULT OF THE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' FEBRUARY RECOGNITION OF THE "AFRICANNESS" OF THE CANARY ISLANDS AND RECOMMENDATION THAT THE OAU SUPPORT THE MPAIAC INDEPENDENCE GROUP). COUNCIL MEETINGS ALSO ENJOY A LARGER SYMBOLIC VALUE IN TESTIFYING TO THE SPECIAL NATURE OF A DEMOCRATIC SPAIN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US.(THE US-SPANISH COUNCIL ITSELF HAS SERVED AS A MODEL IN SPAIN'S REVISION OF HER RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL.) COMING AS IT DOES SOON AFTER THE EARLY AUGUST VISIT OF FIRST VICE PRESIDENT/DEFENSE MINISTER GUTIERREZ MELLADO, DURING WHICH SPANISH DISSATISFACTION WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY ASPECTS OF THE TREATY WAS MADE CLEAR, THE MEETING WILL CERTAINLY GIVE RISE TO REITERATION BY OREJA OF CERTAIN OF THESE CONCERNS. HIS OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO SEEK EVIDENCE OF A US COMMITMENT TO THE OVERALL RELATIONSHIP AS WELL AS THE SPECIFIC TERMS OF THE TREATY. PRINCIPAL AMONG THESE CONCERNS WILL BE THE TERRITORIAL COMMAND NET (TCN), A SUBJECT TREATED IN SEPARATE MESSAGES. OREJA MAY ALSO ADDRESS THE RECENTLY UNDERTAKEN COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATIONS, WHICH FOR HIM HAVE COME ALL TOO CLOSE ON THE HEELS OF HIS PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS EARLIER THIS YEAR OF SATISFACTION WITH THE DIRECTION OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

7. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS PROVIDE BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS ON THOSE TOPICS TO BE DEALT WITH IN THE SECRETARY'S BILATERAL WITH OREJA, AS WELL AS IN THE COUNCIL SESSION ITSELF (REFS. A AND B).

8. SPANISH CONCERN OVER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY:

A. THE SPANISH DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT BELIEVES THAT US TREATMENT OF SPAIN UNDER PRESENT ARMS TRANSFER POLICY, THE PRICES AND DELIVERY SCHEDULES OFFERED FOR DEFENSE ITEMS CONFIDENTIAL

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PURCHASED BY SPAIN WITH TREATY FUNDS, AND US OFFERS OF SPECIFIC AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS PROVIDED FOR IN THE TREATY HAVE OFTEN BEEN INCONSISTENT WITH THE LETTER OR SPIRIT OF THE TREATY. THERE IS AN IMPLIED THREAT OF A SPANISH REACTION SHOULD THE GAP GROW BETWEEN WHAT THEY SEE AS FULL US

ACCESS TO THE FACILITIES PROVIDED FOR IN THE TREATY, AND SPAIN'S "LOCC" THROUGH INFLATION AND DELAYS OF THE FULL VALUE OF US SECURITY ASSISTANCE.

B. SPANISH DISSATISFCATION COUPLED WITH CONCERN AT THE OPPOSITION'S CHARGES OF EXCESSIVE COMPLIANCY HAVE ALREADY CONTRIBUTED IN SEVERAL CASES TO DIFFICULTIES EN-COUNTATY HAVE OFTEN BEEN INCONSISTENT WITH THE LETTER OR SPIRIT OF THE TREATY. THERE IS AN IMPLIED THREAT OF A SPANISH REACTION SHOULD THE GAP GROW BETWEEN WHAT THEY SEE AS FULL US ACCESS TO THE FACILITIES PROVIDED FOR IN THE TREATY, AND SPAIN'S "LOCC" THROUGH INFLATION AND DELAYS OF THE FULL VALUE OF US SECURITY ASSISTANCE.

B. SPANISH DISSATISFACTION COUPLED WITH CONCERN AT THE OPPOSITION'S CHARGES OF EXCESSIVE COMPLIANCY HAVE ALREADY CONTRIBUTED IN SEVERAL CASES TO DIFFICULTIES EN-COUNTERED BY THE USN AND USAF WHEN THEY HAVE SOUGHT ADDED FLEXIBILITY IN THEIR USE OF EXISTING FACILITIES IN SPAIN. SUCH SPECIFIC US MILITARY INTERESTS AS EXPANSION OF NPW VISITS AND EXERCISES IN SPAIN, AND ADDED KC-135 ACCESS TO ZARAGOZA, ARE AGAIN BEING MADE A MATTER OF RECORD BY THE US SIDE IN THE JOINT MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH WILL PRECEDE THE COUNCIL SESSION BY A DAY, AND MAY ALSO BE NOTED IN THAT COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL. SPECIFIC SPANISH CONCERNS, PRINCIPALLY THE COMPLEX OF ISSUES RE-LATING TO THE COMPLETION AND PAYMENT FOR THE TERRITORIAL COMMAND NET (TCN) IN SPAIN, BUT ALSO PERHAPS SUCH MATTERS AS SHIP TRANSFERS TO SPAIN UNDER THE TREATY AND CO-PRODUCTION OF MILITARY ITEMS, WHICH IS PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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TREATY, WILL BE MENTIONED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE REPORTS OF BOTH THE MILITARY AND POLITICO-MILITARY (STATUS OF FORCES) COMMITTEES.

C. THESE ISSUES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO OVERSHADOW A RECORD OF CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. THE GOOD WORK TO DATE OF THE TREATY-CREATED COMBINED MILITARY COORDINATION AND PLANNING STAFF, COMPLETION AND NOW EXPANSION OF A FIRST CLASS AIR CONTROL AND WARNING SYSTEM FOR SPAIN (COMBAT GRANDE), US FRONT-LOADING THIS FICAL YEAR OF THE RE-RMAINING THREE YEARS OF GRANT TREATY MONEY FOR EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES, USAF RESPONSIVENESS IN HELPING UPGRADE THE SAF LOGISTIC SYSTEM AND PROVIDING SCARCE RF4-C AIRCRAFT, THE NAVY'S LOAN TO THE SPANISH OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT ENABLING RAPID FLEET-TO-FLEET COMMUNICATIONS AND ITS ASSIS-TANCE IN REHABILITATING PRINCIPALLY FOR SPANISH NAVY USE A SUBMARINE COMMUNICATIONS STATION AT GUARDAMAR ON THE

MEDITERRANEAN COAST ARE AMONG NUMEROUS DEVELOPMENTS WHICH
TESTIFY TO THE US FOCES' INTEREST IN WORKING CLOSELY WITH
THE SPANISH ARMED SERVICES. FOR ITS PART, THE GOS HAS, FOR
EXAMPLE, INCURRED DOMESTIC POLITICAL RISK FIRST IN OPENING

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6091
INFO JCS WASHDC
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ROTA FOR REGULAR NPW VISITS LAST YEAR AND NOW FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN THIS DECADE (IN SEPTEMBER) THE MEDITERRANEAN PORT
OF CARTAGENA AS WELL.

D. THE SPANISH COMPLAINT OF LESS THAN EQUAL TREAT-
MENT UNDER OUR AGREEMENTS IS NOT NEW (IT HAS CHARACTERIZED
ALL THE AGREEMENTS SINCE 1953) AND CAN IN SOME MEASURE
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BE ATTRIBUTED TO THEIR LOOKING FORWARD TO POSSIBLE NATO MEMBERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS AND THE BEGINNING OF NEW BASE NEGOTIATIONS IN 1980. BUT THERE IS ALSO A BASIS OF FACT IN PD-13'S RESTRICTIONS ON US COOPERATION IN THE ARMS TRANSFER FIELD WHICH POSTDATE THE NEGOTIATION AND SIGNATURE OF THE TREATY. TO IGNORE THESE SPANISH COMPLAINTS IS ALSO TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE VULNERABILITY OF THIS PRO-

NATO SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO CHARGES BY OPPOSITION AND ANTI-NATO POLITICAL FORCES THAT IT IS INSUFFICIENTLY ASSIDUOUS IN PURSUIT OF SPANISH INTERESTS. SPANISH INTEREST IN JOINING NATO WILL BE WEAKENED RATHER THAN STRENGTHENED BY A DETERIORATION IN THE BILATERAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP.

9. ECONOMIC ISSUES - COUNTERVAILING DUTIES. SPAIN REBATES INDIRECT TAXES TO BOOST EXPORTS. UNDER US LAW THIS MAY AMOUNT TO AN ILLEGAL GRANT OR SUBSIDY AND IF SO, WE ARE REQUIRED TO IMPOSE COUNTERVAILING DUTIES TO OFFSET THE RESULTANT PRICE ADVANTAGE. COUNTERVAILING DUTIES HAVE BEEN IN PLACE ON SPANISH SHOES, BOTTLED OLIVES, AND ZINC FOR QUITE SOME TIME. SPAIN CLAIMED THAT THE DUTIES WERE TOO HIGH ON THESE THREE KEY TRADE ITEMS AND AFTER MUCH STUDYING AND DELIBERATION WE AGREED TO LOWER THE RATES. THE REDUCTION WENT INTO EFFECT ON JUNE 15 AND RECEIVED EXTENSIVE FAVORABLE PUBLICITY IN SPAIN. IN AUGUST, TREASURY ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD REOPENED ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE TREATMENT OF THEIR PRODUCTS. THIS ACTION GREATLY UPSET THE SPANISH OFFICIALS, WHO HAD PUBLICLY HAILED THE JUNE ACTION, AND THEY RAISED THE ISSUE AT LAST MONTH'S JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING IN WASHINGTON. SEVERAL OTHER PRODUCTS ARE ALSO UNDER INVESTIGATION BY TREASURY. THIS NEW INVESTIGATION IS NOT AIMED SPECIFICALLY AT SPANISH EXPORTS, BUT IS RATHER A PART OF A GENERAL REVIEW

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OF OUR TREATMENT OF CASCADE TURNOVER TAXES (LIKE SPAIN'S) AS COMPARED TO OUR TREATMENT OF VALUE ADDED TAXES. HOPEFULLY, WE CAN RESOLVE THIS QUESTION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THE REVIEW MAY FIND THAT THE PRESENT RATES ARE CORRECT, OR IT MAY RAISE THEM SOMEWHAT, BUT IN NO CASE WILL THEY BE RAISED TO PRE-JUNE 15 LEVELS.

10. OTHER TREATY-RELATED ISSUES: IN THE CONTEXT OF THE HARDY PREENNIAL ISSUE OF THE NON-PAYMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE US FORCES OF THE SPANISH AUTO CIRCULATION TAX, OREJA MAY

ALLUDE TO THE STRONG AND PERSISTENT COMPLAINTS BY POLITICAL LEADERS IN ROTA THAT THE US NAVY, THE TOWN'S PRINCIPAL "INDUSTRY", IS NOT DOING ITS SHARE TO COMBAT THE STAGNATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE AREA. AT THIS READING, WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY ISSUES TO BE RAISED FOR DISCUSSION WITH RESPECT TO THE EDUCATION AND CULTURAL OR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRAMS. THERE IS SATISFACTION ON BOTH SIDES WITH THE WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION WITH NATO, WHICH HAS PROVIDED A WEALTH OF INFORMATION TO THE GOS OF USE IN ITS DEVELOPMENT OF A STRONG POSITIVE POSITION ON NATO MEMBERSHIP (SEE PARA 12 BELOW).

11. DEVELOPMENTS IN FOREIGN RELATIONS:

A. THE MAGHREB. THE CONFLICT IN THE FORMER SPANISH SAHARA IS PERHAPS THE INTERNATIONAL ISSUE OF GREATEST IMMEDIACY FOR THE GOS. IT HAS SEVERELY STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN'S TWO NORTH AFRICAN NEIGHBORS, MOROCCO AND ALGERIA, WHICH WHOM THE GOS IS ATTEMPTING TO MAIN PRODUCTIVE TIES; IT AFFECTS SPAIN'S SECURITY INTERESTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE NEARBY CANARIES, WHOSE IMPORTANT FISHING INDUSTRY ALSO IS THREATENED BY THE CONFLICT; AND IT PROBABLY IS THE MOST SALIENT FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE ON WHICH THERE IS NO DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSENSUS. AS A RESULT, THE SAHARA OFTEN BECOMES A DOMESTIC POLITICAL FOOTBALL, WITH THE GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE BE-

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TWEEN RABAT AND ALGIERS, WHILE THE LEFT (PSOE AND PCS) SUPPORTS THE ALGIERS-BACKED POLISARIO GUERRILLAS. THE GOS HOPES FOR A MODERATE SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT AND HAS PUBLICLY SUPPORTED MAURITANIA'S CONTINUING SEARCH FOR PEACE. BUT THE SPANIARDS ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE HASSAN CONSIDERS ANY SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO ALGIERS A THREAT TO MOROCCAN SECURITY AND BECAUSE THEY FEEL THAT THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF BOUMEDIENE IS THE OVERTHROW OF HASSAN, AND OREJA MAY WELL URGE US TO TAKE A SOMEWHAT MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN ATTEMPTING TO BRING THE PARTIES TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE. (WE WILL BE REPORTING ON THE SAHARA IN GREATER DETAIL BY SEPTEL.)

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B. THE MIDDLE EAST. OREJA WILL BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE OUTCOME OF THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT AND OUR ESTIMATE OF THE PROSPECTS IN THE REGION. SPAIN, OF COURSE, DOES NOT MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISREAL. THIS IS A LEGACY OF FRANCO'S NON-RECOGNITION POLICY (PART OF THE PERCEIVED "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH THE ARAB STATES), AND THE GOS IS NOW WAITING FOR SUFFICIENT PROGRESS IN THE DISPUTE TO ENABLE IT TO OPEN RELATIONS WITH TEL AVIV WITH-
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OUT RAISING TOO MANY HACKLES AMONG THE ARABS, ON WHOM SPAIN IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT FOR PETROLEUM.

C. CUBA. PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ, ACCOMPANIED BY OREJA, VISITED CUBA SEPTEMBER 9-10 (FOLLOWING A SEPTEMBER 7-8 STOPOVER IN VENEZUELA). THIS WAS A TRIP TAKEN MORE FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS THAN TO ADDRESS PENDING FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUSINESS, SINCE IT ALLOWED SUAREZ TO DEMON-

STRATE THAT HE CAN DEAL PERSONNNALY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH VENEZUELA'S ANDRES PEREZ (WHOSE PARTY IS LINKED TO THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AND WHO HAS A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH PSOE SECGEN FELIPE GONZAELEZ) AND WITH CASTRO (WHO ALSO HAS BEEN VISITED BY GONZALEZ AND PCE SECGEN CARRILLO). ACCORDING TO THE MADRID PRESS, CASTRO HAS NOW BEEN INVITED TO VISIT SPAIN AT A DATE TO BE DETERMINED. THERE ARE STRONG SENTIMENTAL BONDS BETWEEN SPAIN AND CUBA, THE MOTHER COUNTRY'S "LAST COLONY" IN AMERICA. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES NEVER WERE SEVERED AFTER CASTRO CAME TO POWER, AND THE CASTRO AND FRANCO REGIMES MAINTAINED CORRECT DIPLOMATIC TIES AND A STRONG COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP. MOREOVER, THE GOS, IN THE TRADITION OF PAST SPANISH GOVERNMENTS, BELIEVES SPAIN HAS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS FORMER AMERICAN COLONIES, AND THIS PERCEIVED AFFINITY PROMPTS THE CLAIM -- AND ASPIRATION -- THAT THE GOS CAN ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE US AND EUROPE. AT OREJA'S REQUEST, THE AMBASSADOR BRIEFED HIM ON CUBA BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE FROM MADRID (STATE 223446; MADRID 10230), AND OREJA WILL THEREFORE PROBABLY EXPECT TO OFFER HIS IMPRESSIONS OF CUBA AND A READOUT ON SUAREZ' DISCUSSIONS WITH CASTRO.

12. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NATO. THE GOVERNMENT PARTY
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(UCD) SUPPORTS SPANISH NATO MEMBERSHIP, AND A PLANK FORMAILIZING THAT ADVOCACY WILL BE PRESENTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE PARTY PROGRAM AT ITS CONSTITUENT CONGRESS, OCTOBER 19-21. EVEN SO, THE TIMING OF THE NATO DEBATE, WHICH HAD BEEN PREDICTED BY SOME UCD LEADERS FOR LATE THIS YEAR, REMAINS VERY MUCH UP IN THE AIR. SOME PARTY LEADERS CONTINUE TO PLUMP FOR INITIATION OF THE DEBATE SOON AFTER THE CONSITUION IS APPROVED IN REFERENDUM (PROBABLY BY MID-NOVEMBER), WHILE OTHERS BELIEVE IT BEST TO DEFER THE ISSUE UNTIL AFTER THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, IN ORDER THAT THE VARIOUS PARTIES CAN PRESENT THEIR VIEWS ON NATO IN THE CAMPAIGN AND THE RETURNS CAN REPRESENT A MANDATE ON THE QUESTION. WE DO NOT BELIEVE SUAREZ HAS MADE UP HIS MIND ON THIS QUESTION, BUT DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WILL BE CENTRAL IN DETERMINING THE TIME OF THE DEBATE.

2. APART FROM REPEATING THE US POSITION ON SPAIN'S ENTRY INTO NATO, THE SECRETARY MAY WANT TO USE THIS TOPIC AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DESCRIBE CURRENT NATO ACTIVITIES AND CONCERNS, INCLUDING PROGRESS ON FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE NATO SUMMIT, ON WHICH THE SPANISH WERE BRIEFED IN JUNE BY MINISTER GLITMAN FROM USNATO. BARBOUR

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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SAS ID: 1470063
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OCTOBER 4 MEETING OF US-SPANISH COUNCIL - OVER- VIEW
TAGS: MARR, SP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eada5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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